

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, and 10 were rejected as anticipated by Ranganath et al.

The word "component" has several meanings. One meaning relates to a physical device, such as a capacitor or an inductor. Another meaning relates to a portion of a signal; e.g. as in "DC component," "AC component," "real component," "imaginary component," "resistive component," or "reactive component." One of ordinary skill in the art also knows that a complex wave can be represented as the sum of several harmonically related components, as shown by J.B. Joseph Fourier in the eighteenth century. The claims refer to a component of the rectified mains voltage; a signal, not a device. See also applicant's FIG. 5B and the description thereof.

In support of the rejection, the Examiner says that "Ranganath discloses in figure 3 a ballast circuit for a gas discharge lamp controlling and functioning similarly with the instant invention." It is respectfully submitted that "similar" is not anticipation and is vague. Anticipation requires sameness.

The Examiner further asserts "A varying components (Lr and Ck) is [sic] clearly shown in figure 3 which is matched with figure 2 and coil 27 of the instant invention." Applicant is not reciting a physical device but the component of a signal – the rectified mains voltage. There is no anticipation.

The Examiner asserts that "the voltage is enter-related [sic] to the current and frequency of the circuit." The assertion is not understood. Is "inter-related" or "related" intended? What circuit? The meaning and relevance of the statement are not understood.

The Examiner further asserts that "comparison of both circuits, the instant invention' circuit and Ranganath's circuit, are the same." (1) Anticipation is determined by comparing applicant's claims with the prior art, not by comparing applicant's drawings to drawings in the prior art. The Examiner's analysis is improper. (2) The circuits are not the same. Applicant's FIG. 1, for example,

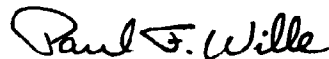
clearly shows a line from preconditioner 2 to control circuit 10. This is the source of the component of the rectified mains voltage, U_{DC} . There is no such line in any figure of the Ranganath et al. patent.

Claims 8 and 9 were rejected as unpatentable over Ranganath et al. As shown above, the Ranganath et al. patent does not remotely disclose or suggest the invention.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejections are based upon errors of fact in interpreting terminology and reading schematics. It is respectfully submitted that the Ranganath et al. patent does not remotely disclose or suggest the invention claimed by applicant.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1–11 are in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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